

TOWN of DARIEN MONUMENTS & CEREMONIES COMMISSION

Town Hall, 2 Renshaw Road, Darien, Connecticut 06820



Monuments and Ceremonies Commission

Minutes of June 9, 2009 Meeting

Chairman, Phil Kraft called the meeting to order at 3:35 P.M. with Commissioners Edward Carabillo, John Geoghegan, David Polett, Karen Polett, Bob Riith, Charles Scribner, and George Walsh attending. Police officer Gary Pavia also attended as did prospective member Don Cavett. First Selectwoman, Evonne Klein stopped by briefly.

Minutes of the May 12, 2009 meeting were accepted as read on a motion by Bob Riith; second by John Geoghegan.

Old Business:

John noted that five Commission members' terms are expiring in November, 2009. They include: Bob Riith, Phil Kraft, Karen Polett, Marian Castell, and Charles Scribner. All members present would like to continue their membership on the Commission. John will follow through with procedures to get these five members reappointed.

New Business:

Karen will prepare the 2009 Monuments and Ceremonies Report to the Selectmen as she did in September of 2008.

Discussion followed about asking Memorial Day Parade vendors not to sell silly string and poppers next year. Last week, a letter in the newspaper noted the disrespect shown to veterans and liability of the children throwing poppers and string at marchers during the Parade this year. Perhaps a memo from the Supt. of Schools E-Blast to parents next year might also be effective in helping to curtail this unacceptable behavior.

Officer Pavia noted that the traffic pattern at Hecker Avenue will be changed next year.

Memorial at Sea following the Ceremony at the Cemetery is not well attended and another date was suggested for this. Thoughts about involving the Darien Boat Club in this ceremony as part of their Opening Day activity were suggested as an alternative. Our Commission would provide the wreath, Color Guard, and script for this.

Karen felt that having the list of Parade participants beforehand would be helpful to her at the Registration Desk. This way, she could better remember where certain groups were going. Phil said he gets many last minute additions to the marching order and thus does not have the final list available

until Parade time. Pink slips were not mailed to participants this year and should be included with the Parade instruction packet next year. Additional vehicles should be able to obtain these slips at the VFW or Town Hall if necessary before the Parade. This would make vehicles participating in the Parade recognizable to people manning the Registration Desk.

Phil Morehouse called Karen and he is obtaining bonds for the children who won the Coloring Contest.

Mrs. Klein noted that the flyover will be checked by Grace in the First Selectman's Office. Planes did not get to the Parade this year despite letters telling us they would be flying.

Charles Scribner said that one of our file cabinets has disappeared from the storage room in the Town Hall basement. We need another cabinet, and Evonne promised to look into this.

David Polett heard from the PGR today that the Wreaths Across America may be coming down through the middle of Connecticut and will thus by pass Darien. Updates on this as we hear them.

No official Flag Day ceremony is scheduled for this year because the day falls on a Sunday. Phil did send a press release about the Flag Code to the two local papers. (see attached)

WWII Veterans Ceremony on July 18, 2009 at 10:00 A.M. will be held at Darien High School Auditorium. Currently, there are 72 veterans names on this database. The Secretary of the State of Connecticut, Susan Bysiewicz will provide the certificates, program and invitations. Phil Kraft noted that chairs, seat markers with veteran's names, sound system and lighting are all taken care of. We need to locate a photographer who might be able to take photos of each veteran and then a photo of all veterans. We hope that Channel 79 will record this ceremony for us. George might have a person who has a wide angle lens for this type of photography. On a motion by Dave Polett, second by Edward Carabillo, a check in the amount of \$500. was approved for the Darien Community Summer Band to play at this ceremony; on a motion by Bob Riith, second Dave Polett another check for \$100. was approved as payment to the person who sings at this ceremony. Karen Polett and Bob Riith volunteered to provide light refreshments after this ceremony.

Together, Phil and Dave will put in a call to the Secretary of State's representative just to finalize times, invitations, names, dates etc. for this Veteran's Tribute.

Charles Scribner asked for help in removing the flags from the cemetery on June 17.

Meeting adjourned on a motion by Ed Carabillo, second Karen Polett at 4:20 P.M.

Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 8, 2009 at 3:30 P.M. at the Darien Town Hall.

Submitted, Kraw K. Polett

Karen Kreitzberger Polett

Secretary



Flag Day corrected

Tuesday, June 9, 2009 2:59 PM

From: "Phillip Kraft" <darienparade@optonline.net>

To: "DarienNewsReview Editor" <mpignataro@bcnnew.com>, "DarienTimes Editor"

<editor@darientimes.com>

Cc: "Karen Polett" <harley87dp@yahoo.com>

Flag Day is Sunday, June 14, 2009. The Monuments and Ceremonies Commission and the VFW have begun collecting American flags that are no longer suitable for display. Collection points are Town Hall and the VFW, at 205 Noroton Avenue.

Commission Chairman Phil Kraft said, ^alt is a wonderful and inspiring thing to see so many patriotic citizens flying their flags. However, many of them are showing signs of wear and tear. When a flag becomes so worn that it is no longer an appropriate symbol of our country, it should be taken down and replaced. Take your worn flag down and bring it to the Darien VFW at 205 Noroton Avenue for Flag Day."

Citizens are asked to bring their old and worn American flags to Town Hall before Sunday, June 14, 2009, to be collected by the VFW for a private ceremonial disposal at a later date. Flags may also be brought to the Darien VFW Post 6933, 205 Noroton Avenue anytime after 2pm daily.

The Monuments and Ceremonies Commission encourages everyone to fly their flags on this day, and reminds citizens that it is better to not fly your flag at all if the one you have is in poor condition.

Please feel free to run any portion of the Flag Etiquette section:

Flag Etiquette

This information is provided as a public service by the Town of Darien Monuments and Ceremonies Commission.

The United States Flag Code, which formalizes and unifies the traditional ways in which we give respect to the flag, also contains specific instructions on how the flag is not to be used. They are:

- € The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. It is flown upside down only as a distress signal.
- € The flag should not be used as a drapery, or for covering a speakers desk, draping a platform, or for any decoration in general. Bunting of blue, white and red stripes is available for these purposes. The blue stripe of the bunting should be on the top.
- € The flag should never be used for any advertising purpose. It

should not be embroidered, printed or otherwise impressed on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, boxes, or anything intended to be discarded after temporary use. Advertising signs should not be attached to the staff or halyard.

- € The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform, except that a flag patch may be used on the uniform of military personnel, fireman, policeman and members of patriotic organizations.
- € The flag should never have placed on it, or attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, number, figure, or drawing of any kind.
- € The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.

When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag it should be folded neatly and ceremoniously.

The flag should be cleaned and mended when necessary.

When a flag is so worn it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner. *

* On Flag Day, June 14th, the Town of Darien has a ceremony to gather old flags and, in conjunction with the Darien VFW, see to their proper disposal.

Displaying the Flag Outdoors

When the flag is displayed from a staff projecting from a window, balcony, or a building, the union should be at the peak of the staff unless the flag is at half staff.

When it is displayed from the same flagpole with another flag of a state, community, society or Scout unit the flag of the United States must always be at the top except that the church pennant may be flown above the flag during church services for Navy personnel when conducted by a Naval chaplain on a ship at sea.

When the flag is displayed over a street, it should be hung vertically, with the union to the north or east. If the flag is suspended over a sidewalk, the flag's union should be farthest from the building.

When flown with flags of states, communities, or societies on separate flag poles which are of the same height and in a straight line, the flag of the United States is always placed in the position of honor to its own right.

- € The other flags may be smaller but none may be larger.
- € No other flag ever should be placed above it.
- € The flag of the United States is always the first flag raised and the last to be lowered.

When flown with the national banner of other countries, each flag must be displayed from a separate pole of the same height. Each flag should be the same size. They should be raised and lowered simultaneously. The flag of one nation may not be displayed above that of another nation.

Raising and Lowering the Flag

The flag should be raised briskly and lowered slowly and ceremoniously. Ordinarily it should be displayed only between sunrise and sunset. It should be illuminated if displayed at night.

The flag of the United States of America is saluted as it is hoisted and lowered. The salute is held until the flag is unsnapped from the halyard or through the last note of music, whichever is the longest. Displaying the Flag Indoors

When on display, the flag is accorded the place of honor, always positioned to its own right. Place it to the right of the speaker or staging area or sanctuary. Other flags should be to the left.

The flag of the United States of America should be at the center and at the highest point of the group when a number of flags of states, localities, or societies are grouped for display.

When one flag is used with the flag of the United States of America and the staffs are crossed, the flag of the United States is placed on its own right with its staff in front of the other flag.

When displaying the flag against a wall, vertically or horizontally, the flag's union (stars) should be at the top, to the flag's own right, and to the observer's left.

Parading and Saluting the Flag

When carried in a procession, the flag should be to the right of the marchers. When other flags are carried, the flag of the United States may be centered in front of the others or carried to their right. When the flag passes in a procession, or when it is hoisted or lowered, all should face the flag and salute.

When commanded to salute, all persons come to attention. Those in uniform give the appropriate formal salute. Citizens not in uniform salute by placing their right hand over the heart and men with head cover should remove it and hold it to left shoulder, hand over the heart. Members of organizations in formation salute upon command of the person in charge.

The Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem

The pledge of allegiance should be rendered by standing at attention, facing the flag, and saluting.

When the national anthem is played or sung, citizens should stand at attention and salute at the first note and hold the salute through the last note. The salute is directed to the flag, if displayed, otherwise to the music.

The Flag in Mourning

To place the flag at half staff, hoist it to the peak for an instant and lower it to a position half way between the top and bottom of the staff. The flag is to be raised again to the peak for a moment before it is lowered. On Memorial Day the flag is displayed at half staff until noon

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and at full staff from noon to sunset.

The flag is to be flown at half staff in mourning for designated, principal government leaders and upon presidential or gubernatorial order.

When used to cover a casket, the flag should be placed with the union at the head and over the left shoulder. It should not be lowered into the grave.

It was dismaying to see disrespectful children at parade

first Memorial Day parade in various veteran groups march- seeing the Darien. It was terrific to see ing or riding in convertibles. the community come together. The parents of the children to honor our fallen heroes, were nearby and didn't try to Darien has much to be proud, stop the behavior, so apparof as evidenced by the multi-ently they didn't see anything tude of youth and adult orga-wrong with the actions. I have nizations that participated in two young boys and I would

however, rubbed me the wrong way. Admittedly I'm not a big ans on Memorial Day. parade-goer, but when did I understand children need throwing poppers (snappers) become the thing to do?

I was taken by surprise when I watched children, many of whom looked to be four or five years old, run onto the street to throw poppers at complete strangers.

That was bad enough, but-I thoroughly enjoyed my they also threw them at the I am wi the parade. At lower lower in never dream of allowing them. One aspect of the event, to throw snapping objects at strangers — especially veter-

to have fun, and I'm not and shooting, Silly String at against poppers or Silly String those marching in the parade in general, but I don't think they should be used in such a disrespectful way. Maybe I'm just getting old, but it seems like common sense to me.

Chris Bosak 23 Hollow Tree Ridge Road

music seri that Darie did last y Pond Jazz level. Ger excitemen our Dariei

The pro only one Darien; th led by K Tone. As in the are dent for 1 of the m formers,: profession

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Memorial Day Ceremonies

Monday, May 25, 2009 at the State of Connecticut Veterans' Cemetery

Hecker Avenue and the Post Road

Dedication

This year's Memorial Day Parade is dedicated to all of Darien's World War II veterans, both living and deceased

Phillip Kraft, Monuments and Ceremonies Commission Rev. Dr. Anthony Gibson, Calvary Baptist Church Prayer of Invocation: introductions:

Darien Times Coloring Contest Winners:

Ox Ridge School 5th Grader Dana H. "DH" Cahoon Pledge of Allegiance: Names of Darien Men Killed in Wars: Evonne M. Klein, First Selectwoman (Three rings of the bell reflects respect and honor to those who gave their lives to their duty.)

General Logan's Order No. 11, Grand Army of the Republic:

Star Scout John Thomas Ficigna, Troop 35

National Anthem:

Darien High School Tudor Singers

Lincoln's Gettysburg Address:

Junior Girl Scout Celia Rogers, Troop 50152

God Bless America:

Guest Speaker:

Tudor Singers Commissioner Linda Spooner Schwartz, Connecticut

Department of Veterans' Affairs

Grand Marshal Mickey Doyle, Commissioner Schwartz, and First Selectwoman Klein

Presentation of Memorial Flowers:

Darien VFW Honor Guard Firing Squad Kristen Carey, Darien High School Band Rev. Dr. Anthony Gibson, Calvary Baptist Church Prayer of Benediction:

Let us always keep in our thoughts and prayers all who currently serve our Nation at home and overseas.

Flyover

Following the above services, Memorial Services will be held for Coast Guard, Naval and Marine Corps personnel CT Army National Guard Joint Operations Naval Ceremonies at Pear Tree Point who gave their lives for our country. All are invited to attend.

DARIEN ROLL of HONOR

Darien residents who answered the call and made the supreme sacrifice during America's wars

CARL ACHERMAN	CIVIL WAR, 1861 - 1865 WILLIAM H HOWMAN	EBANKIIN H SCOEIEIN
JAMES H. BATES	EDWARD S. HOYT	ALBERT 0. SEELEY
LEWIS H. BENEDICT	ISAAC L. HOYT	SILAS F. SLAWSON
JOSEPH BUSHY	ELIAS JOHNSON	THOMAS SMITH
NATHAN R. BYXBEE	GEORGE D. JORDAN	JACOB W. VINCENT
CHARLES H. CLOCK	FRANK LAROCHE	JOSEPH VOID
HORACE CURTIS	SAMUEL MAGLUE	ISAAC WEED
PHILLIP FORTUNE	JOHN MALLON	RAYMOND WEED
MICHAEL HARMON	WILLIAM H. NORTHROP	ADOLPH WERNER
FREDERICK HENDERSON	GABRIEL W. PLATT	JAMES A. WHALEY
WILLIAM H. HOWE	JOHN PRICE	GEORGE W. WILMOT
WOR	WORLD WAR ONE, 1917 - 1918	18
DAVID C. BISPHAM	WILFRED T. LOWNDES	EDWARD G. PUNZELT
LAWRENCE F. CALLAHAN MARTIN H. GILL	MURTAGH C. MCDONALD	ERNEST F. SEXTON GEORGE STRAKA
aum	WORLD WAR TWO 1941 - 1945	45

SANFORD ADAMS	RAYMOND L. HOWE	KENNETH C. PHILLIPS
ERIC ALLEN	PASQUALE G. IMPROTA	TOHN PYNE
WILLIAM A. AYCRIGG II	LAWRENCE H. ISBELL	LOUIS E. RAYNER
ELTON S. BARRETT		THOMAS F. RENDLER
ORRIN K. BOICE	Z	DAVID L. ROSENBURG
JAMES BUTTS		CHARLES B. ROSSI
JOSEPH A. CHASE		GORDON S. SMITH
PETER T. CHESTER	ALAN R. MOREHOUSE	THOMAS F. SMITH
HORACE G. CLEVELAND III	ARTHUR I. NIELSEN	STEPHEN J. TANSAK
LOUIS COTALING	8	TORGER D. TOKLE
DAVID 0. DEVLIN	FRANCIS W. 0T00LE	JULIUS W. TOROK
ANTHONY R. FRATE		ANTHONY VITTI
DONALD FROTHINGHAM, JR. ROSARIO F. PALUMBERI	ROSARIO F. PALUMBERI	CLARENCE C. WALKER
	HAROLD D. PARADY	

VIETNAM WAR, 1958 - 1975 KOREAN WAR 1950 - 1953

WILLIAM R. PATIENCE, JR. ALAN L. DIEDRICKSEN JOHN B. GIESEN, JR. JAMES S. MCARTHUR DAVID I. MIXTER IOHN B. SHERMAN GEORGE R. BROADHURST ROBERT J. PERKINSON IAMES A. DOOLEY, JR. EUGENE MURPHY IULIUS C. NACCI

Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn, They shall not grow old, as we that are left grow old. At the going down of the sun and in the morning. We will remember them.

-- Exhortation from the Military Order of the Purple Heart

To: Evonne M. Klein, First Selectwoman

From: Monuments and Ceremonies Commission, Town of Darien (Karen Polett, Secretary)

Date: September 20, 2009

Re: Update to Board of Selectmen

As Secretary of the Monuments and Ceremonies Commission, and in the absence of our Chairman Phil Kraft, I was asked to read our Commission's Report tonight. I have been a member of this Commission since its inception in 1997, when First Selectman Hank Sanders, sought some guidelines for establishing and maintaining town monuments.

According to our charter, The Monuments and Ceremonies Commission is authorized "to establish guidelines for the erection or installation of monuments, plaques, or memorials on public property." We are charged with cataloguing and surveying public monuments, and identifying maintenance and upkeep needs. We also "promote, organize, prepare and monitor public patriotic parades, public celebrations, anniversaries and special community events when requested by the Board of Selectmen." In general, our Commission encourages actions by individuals and organizations that will enhance the image of the Town of Darien.

Current Commission members include; Ed Carabillo, Marian Castell, John Geoghegan, Phil Kraft, Phil Morehouse, David Polett, Ken Reiss, Bob Riith, Charles Scribner, George Walsh, and Karen Polett. Gene Coyle serves as a liaison to the RTM and attends our meetings whenever possible.

During 2009, our Commission successfully organized the Memorial Day Parade, the ceremony afterwards at the Spring Grove Veteran's Cemetery, and the ceremony at Pear Tree Point Beach. This is a huge undertaking because we have to coordinate our activities with many other Boards, organizations and individuals. We send invitations to various civic organizations, decide on a speaker, honor a veteran as our Parade Grand Marshal, decorate the stand used in the cemetery proceedings, determine the line of march, and facilitate the orderly step-off of the parade participants. This year, we were honored to have the Commissioner of Veterans Affairs for the State of Connecticut, Linda Schwartz as our Speaker, and veteran Michael Doyle as our Grand Marshal.

We obtain permits from the property owners of the staging area at Goodwives Shopping Center, and Miller Motor Company where the reviewing stand is held. We work with the First Selectwoman and the Air National Guard to obtain the flyover. We work closely with the Darien Police Department to ensure the safety of residents and parade participants. In conjunction with the Memorial Day Parade, we co-sponsor a Patriotic Coloring Contest (for ages 3-10 years) with The Darien Times newspaper and present a savings bond to each of the four children who win. The newspaper shares this cost with us.

Prior to every Memorial Day, a member of our Commission, Chick Scribner, spearheads the placement of flags on the graves of our veterans in Spring Grove Cemetery by the Darien Boy Scouts.

Since Flag Day (June 14, 2009) was on a Sunday this year, we did not have a public ceremony.

In commemoration of the tragedy of 9/11, our Commission held a ceremony and placed a wreath and roses at the 9/11 Memorial located on the lawn behind Middlesex Middle School. Local officials, 9/11 family members and many townspeople attended. Our 2009 Memorial Day Parade Grand Marshal, Michael Doyle donates these wreaths and flowers each year.

We have planned a Veteran's Day Ceremony at the Darien Town Hall Veteran's Circle for Tuesday, November 11, 2009 at 11:00 AM. Last year, Jeff Calcott, of VFW Post #6933 conducted the Veteran's Day ceremony at the Veteran's Circle.

Members of our Commission assisted with Wreaths Across America last year and plan to lend our assistance to this national convoy when it passes through Darien on December 9, 2009, on its journey to Arlington National Cemetery for the annual wreath laying on December 12, 2009. Darien's Veteran's Cemetery is one of only three designated veteran's cemeteries in the State of Connecticut, and our Commission helped place wreaths there last year. The Darien VFW Post 6933 and the Masonic Club of Darien hosted a dinner for the entire entourage last year.

Our Commission sold Darien license plates many years ago and with the proceeds purchased the display case in the entrance to the Darien Town Hall. We have a brief application form for use of this space and have showcased displays from many civic groups. During December 2008-April 2009, The Darien-Stamford American Red Cross display offered Life Saving Skills, and memorabilia illustrating their service since 1881. In May, Gil Rodrigues had an exhibit of WWII and D-Day artifacts in the display case.

In December of 2008, our Commission honored Phil Morehouse with the Connecticut State Veteran's Public Service Award. Following this ceremony, our Commission decided to hold a ceremony to honor all WWII veterans residing in Darien and published requests in local newspapers for veterans to contact the VFW so that they could be included. This impressive ceremony was held on July 18, at the Darien High School Auditorium. The Summer Community Band played, John Kraft sang the National Anthem, and Secretary of the State of Connecticut Susan Bysiewicz presented the Awards. On hand for the festivities were Congressman Jim Himes, State Representative Terrie Wood, First Selectwoman Evonne Klein and Selectman, David Baynes. Family and friends of the WWII veterans enjoyed a reception afterwards. Our commission voted to use a portion of our limited funds to host this ceremony.

In addition to conducting all of these public ceremonies, our Commission also found time to solve a long-standing town mystery. We had long wondered about the origins of the

bell stored in the Town Hall basement and lately moved to the Town garage. Ken Reiss presented us with a copy of the form signed by First Selectman Kerrigan in 1957, donating the bell to the Darien Historical Society and noting that the bell was from the tower of the Darien's Center School. Plans have been made to transport this bell to the rightful owners, The Darien Historical Society.

In summary, our current annual budget of \$2975.00 limits us to the hiring of only one band for the Memorial Day Parade. We would appreciate an increase in this annual amount so that we would know well in advance and could book a band for the Parade planned for May, 2010. Thank you.



Fran Into, Treasurer CT DAR Connecticut Daughters of the American Revolution

September, 2009

Dear Friend,

This year will mark the 18th anniversary of Wreaths Across America ceremonies and holiday wreaths being placed on veteran's gravestones in Arlington National Cemetery and around the world in honor of our veterans who have served our country and preserved our freedom. Simultaneously with the ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery on Saturday, December 12th at 12:00 noon EST, Wreaths Across America ceremonies will be held at the three CT State Veterans' Cemeteries: State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown; Col. Raymond Gates Memorial Cemetery, Rocky Hill; and Spring Grove Veterans Cemetery, Darien. Additionally, ceremonies will also take place in many towns and cemeteries across Connecticut.

The mission of Wreaths Across America www.wreathsacrossamerica.org is: To Honor, Remember and Teach our children the value of our freedom – one veteran at a time - by sponsoring a wreath (\$15 each) to be placed on the gravestone during these ceremonies. There are over 6,000 veterans buried in the State Veterans Cemetery in Middletown (code CTMVCM) and over 1500 buried each in Col Raymond Gates Memorial Cemetery, Rocky Hill (code CTCRGR); and Spring Grove Veterans Cemetery, Darien (code CTSGVD). Contributions for wreaths to be placed on gravestones can be made through CTDAR State Treasurer, Fran Into, 16 Highland Green, Cromwell, CT 06416 (checks should be made out to Wreaths Across America). Sponsorship may also be done on-line at www.wreathsacrossamerica.org by entering the cemetery code of your choosing (noted above) and CTDAR0002 as the sponsoring group, so that the maximum number of wreaths will be sent to the location of your choosing.

Feel free to contact me with any questions or for assistance. Please plan on coming to one of these ceremonies to Honor and Remember our Veterans. Please cut out the order portion below and mail with your check.

Sincerely, Fran Into

Cut out the section below and mail with your check

Amount of check
Number of wreaths
Darien Code CTSGVD
Mail to: CTDAR Fran Into
16 Highland Green
Cromwell, CT 06416
Your name and address

